

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-implemented method for displaying per-instance dynamic properties of an object comprising:
  - (a) receiving a reference to an object instance having a dynamic property  
5 that is supplied at runtime for the object instance on a per-instance basis and is not stored with the object;
  - (b) retrieving a reference to a property source instance associated with the object, wherein the property source instance maintains knowledge of the dynamic property; and
  - 10 (c) providing the reference to the object instance and the reference to the property source to a control, wherein the control is configured to:
    - (i) retrieve the dynamic property from the property source instance; and
    - (ii) display the dynamic property in a user interface.  
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the dynamic property is provided by an application that is extending an object property set of the object.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the reference to the property source  
20 instance is retrieved from a mapping of property source instances to object class.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the control is further configured to:  
retrieve the standard properties for the object; and

display the standard properties.

5. A computer-implemented system for displaying per-instance dynamic properties of an object comprising:

- 5 (a) an object instance having a dynamic property that is supplied at runtime for the object instance on a per-instance bases and is not stored with the object;
- (b) a property source instance associated with the object, wherein the property source maintains knowledge of the dynamic property; and
- 10 (c) a host configured to:
- (i) retrieve a reference to the object instance;
  - (ii) retrieve a reference to the property source; and
  - (iii) provide the reference to the object instance and the reference to the property source to a control, wherein the control is configured to:
- 15 (1) retrieve the dynamic property from the property source instance; and
- (2) display the dynamic property in a user interface.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the dynamic property is provided by an application that is extending an object property set of the object.

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7. The system of claim 5, further comprising a mapping of property source instances to object classes, wherein the host is configured to retrieve the

reference to the property source instance from the mapping.

8. The system of claim 5, wherein the control is further configured to:  
retrieve the standard properties for the object; and  
5 display the standard properties.

9. A computer-implemented method for providing a custom graphical  
user interface for editing a property of an object, comprising:  
receiving a first object having a first property, wherein the first object provides  
10 a custom ActiveX control that defines a first user interface for displaying and editing  
the first property;  
creating a list of one or more object properties to be displayed, wherein the list  
includes the first property;  
instantiating the custom ActiveX control; and  
15 displaying the object properties in the list, wherein the display of the first  
property comprises the first user interface defined by the instantiated custom ActiveX  
control, wherein the property may be edited through the first user interface.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising instantiating one or more  
20 stock ActiveX controls that define one or more additional user interfaces for  
displaying and editing remaining object properties in the list, wherein the stock  
ActiveX controls are not provided by any object containing one or more of the  
remaining object properties.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the first user interface and additional user interfaces are displayed in a single dialog box.

5           12. The method of claim 9, wherein an application programming interface provides the ability to push the first object to a second object for display.

13. A system for providing a custom graphical user interface for editing a property of an object comprising:

- 10           (a) one or more objects, wherein each object has one or more object properties;
- (b) a property inspector configured to:
- (i) interrogate the one or more objects to discover one or more object properties to be displayed;
- 15               (ii) create a list of the one or more object properties to be displayed; and
- (iii) instantiate and host one or more property editors;
- (c) one or more property editors, wherein:
- (i) one of the property editors comprises a custom ActiveX control
- 20               specified by one of the objects; and
- (ii) the custom ActiveX control defines a custom graphical user interface for displaying and editing one of the object properties.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein one the property editors is comprised of a stock ActiveX control that defines an additional user interface for displaying and editing one or more additional properties in the list, wherein the stock ActiveX control is not provided by one of the objects that contains the one or more additional  
5 properties.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the custom graphical user interface and additional user interfaces are displayed in a single dialog box.

10 16. The system of claim 13, further comprising an application programming interface configured to provide the ability to push the one or more object to the property inspector for display.